Public Distribution System Network

505. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the proposal of Government to utilize PDS network in the event of discontinuance of subsidy and subsequent rise of prices of PDS commodities;

(b) the existing rate of commodities under PDS as against the rate of such items in the open market;

(c) the impact on the survival of Fair Price Shops consequent upon revision of rates of PDS items; and

(d) the lifting status of various PDS commodities in Assam during last one year from FCI, month-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINSITRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) to (c) Public Distribution System (PDS) is operated under the joint responsibility of Government of India and the State Government/UT Adminsitrations. While the Central Government is responsible for procuring and making available to the States the PDS commodities at Principal Distribution Centres, the responsibility of distribution to the cardholders through the network of Fair Price Shops rests with the State Govt. Through the Central Issue Prices (CIPs) of foodgrains being distributed under PDS were hiked on 01-04-2000, in the recent past, the prices are still lower than the open market prices especially for the people living below poverty line (BPL). The subsidy for foodgrains has not been discontinued. However, the subsidy is now targetised towards the BPL population in the country. The PDS items are generally available at prices lower than the open market prices as may be seen in the attached Statement-I (*see* below). State Government have been advised to include additional items of daily use under PDS taking into account the local needs and preferences in order to improve the viability of fair price shops.

(d) The lifting status of rice and wheat by Assam Government from FCI from April 1999 to March, 2000 is given in Statement-II.

Statement-I

Central Issue Prices* under PDS (Rs. per kg./litre)			Open Market Prices (Rs. per kg.)
	APL	BPL	
Wheat	9.00	4.50	6.30 to 11.00
Rice	11.35 to 11.80	5.90	7.75 to 14.00
Sugar	13.00 (Retail issue price)		14.50 to 22.00
Edible Oil	18.00 to 20.00 (Palmolein)		27.00 to 43.00
Kerosene	4.50		12.00 to 14.00

*States/UTs add their own margins thereto and supply through Fair Price Shops at a higher retail issue price.

Statement-II

Lifting Status of Rice and Wheat by Assam from April, 1999 to March, 2000

(Figures in tonnes)

Month	Rice	Wheat
April, 1999	40,748	34,501
May, 1999	50,554	14,129
June, 1999	47,229	21,722
July, 1999	51,506	28,672
August, 1999	47,921	17,467
September, 1999	46,944	18,395
October, 1999	46,273	19,858
November, 1999	41,090	19,926
December, 1999	37,733	17,607

January, 2000	32,958	6,471
February, 2000	45,233	16,923
March, 2000	40,924	3,484

Losses of Agricultural Produce

†506. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI:
SHRI D.P. YADAV:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total storage capacity *vis-a-vis* agricultural production in the country;

(b) whether Government have any information about the percentage of losses that took place in storing the production during last three years;

(c) if so, what is the value of loss, in rupees, to be suffered by the country on account of such damage of foodgrains; and

(d) what are the new schemes to reduce these losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) The Government procures foodgrains through its agency, the Food Corporation of India under the Minimum Support Price (MSP) scheme. It procures only 15% to 20% of the total agricultural produce. The FCI has total storage capacity (owned and hired/Covered and Covered Area Plinth) of 27.32 million tonnes against the total stocks of 25.13 million tonnes with utilisation of 92% all over the country as on 1.6.2000.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.